Please note that the proposed amendments are underlined in the attached document for your convenience and that they include the following:

1) Independent Claims 11 and 15, from which the balance of the rejected claims ultimately depend, have been amended to more particularly describe the invention. First, the disclosed liquid detergent composition has been amended such that it contains less than 5% by weight of antioxidant. This amendment places the claimed invention outside of that claimed in Boskamp (U.S. Patent No. 4,462,922), which requires *at least* 5% by weight of antioxidant (see Specification, column 1, lines 44-49). Second, the disclosed liquid detergent composition has been amended to limit the amylase enzymes to include only α-amylases, β-amylases and mixtures thereof.

2) Dependent Claims 12 and 16 have been amended to limit amphoteric surfactants to include only those that are water-soluble amine oxides containing one alkyl moiety of from about 10 to about 18 carbon atoms and 2 moieties selected from the group consisting of alkyl groups and hydroxyalkyl groups containing from about 1 to about 3 carbon atoms. Please note that the claimed amine oxides are free from sulphur-containing moieties in contrast to those disclosed in the commonly-owned Vinson Patent (U.S. Patent No. 6,069,122).

Please contact me at (513) 634-9076 if you require any additional information.

Thank you,

Julie A. McConihay
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. P-55,439

UNOFFICIAL COMMUNICATION

ATTACHMENT:

PROPOSED CLAIM AMENDMENTS

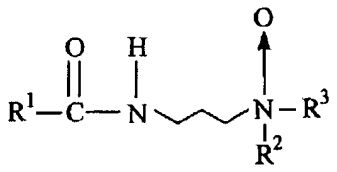
Listing of the claims

Claim 11. (Previously Presented) A process for making a liquid dishwashing detergent composition wherein said final composition comprises substantially no residual hydrogen peroxide, said process comprising the steps of:

(a) combining an amine oxide containing residual hydrogen peroxide with an antioxidant to form a detergent premix wherein said premix contains less than 0.02% of hydrogen peroxide; and

(b) adding an amylase enzyme to said detergent premix to form a detergent composition

wherein said amine oxide has the formula:



wherein R_1 is C_8-C_{18} alkyl, 2-hydroxyalkyl, 3-hydroxyalkyl, 3-alkoxy-2-hydroxypropyl and mixtures thereof; R_2 and R_3 are each methyl, ethyl, propyl, isopropyl, 2-hydroxyethyl, 2-hydroxypropyl and mixtures thereof;

wherein said composition comprises less than 5% by weight of antioxidant; and wherein said amylase enzyme is selected from the group consisting of α-amylases, ß-amylases and mixtures thereof.

Claim 12. (Previously Presented) A process according to Claim 11 wherein one or more surfactants are combined with said amine oxide and antioxidant in step (a);

further wherein said process comprises one or more adjunct ingredients, said adjunct ingredients being selected from the group consisting of anionic surfactants, amphoteric surfactants, nonionic surfactants, and mixtures thereof; and wherein said amphoteric surfactants are water-soluble amine oxides containing one alkyl moiety of from about 10 to about 18 carbon atoms and 2 moieties selected from the group consisting of alkyl groups and hydroxyalkyl groups containing from about 1 to about 3 carbon atoms.

Claim 13. (Previously Presented) A process according to Claim 11 further comprising the step of adding a chelant, said chelant having a calcium ion binding constant, log K, of less than 3.

Claim 15. (Original) A process for making a liquid dishwashing detergent composition wherein said final composition comprises substantially no residual hydrogen peroxide, said process comprising the steps of:

(a) combining an amine oxide containing residual hydrogen peroxide with an antioxidant to form a detergent premix wherein said premix contains less than 0.02% of hydrogen peroxide;

(b) adding to said premix one or more adjunct ingredients to form an adjunct ingredient comprising detergent premix; and

(c) adding an amylase enzyme to said adjunct ingredient comprising detergent premix to form a detergent composition;

wherein said composition comprises less than 5% by weight of antioxidant; and wherein said amylase enzyme is selected from the group consisting of α-amylases, ß-amylases and mixtures thereof.

Claim 16. (Original) A process according to Claim 15 wherein one or more surfactants are combined with said amine oxide and antioxidant in step (a), said adjunct ingredients selected from the group consisting of anionic surfactants, amphoteric surfactants, nonionic surfactants, and mixtures thereof; and wherein said amphoteric surfactants are water-soluble amine oxides containing one alkyl moiety of from about 10 to about 18 carbon atoms and 2 moieties selected from the group consisting of alkyl groups and hydroxyalkyl groups containing from about 1 to about 3 carbon atoms.

Claim 17. (Previously Presented) A process according to claim 15 further comprising the step of adding a chelant, said chelant having a calcium ion binding constant, log K, of less than 3.

Claim 18. (Original) A process according to Claim 15, wherein said adjunct ingredients from step (b) are selected from the group consisting of soil release polymers, polymeric dispersants, polysaccharides, abrasives, bactericides and other antimicrobials, tarnish inhibitors, builders, enzymes, dyes, buffers, antifungal or mildew control agents, insect repellants, perfumes, hydrotropes, thickeners, processing aids, brighteners, anti-corrosive aids, stabilizers, chelants, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 19. (Original) A process according to Claim 15 wherein said detergent composition comprises a sufficient amount of a buffer such that said composition during use has a pH of greater than about 7.

Claim 20. (Original) A process according to Claim 19 comprising from about 0.1% to about 15% by weight, of a buffer.

Claim 21. (Original) A process according to Claim 20 comprising from 1% to 10% by weight, of a buffer.

Claim 22. (Original) A process according to Claim 21 comprising from 2% to 8% by weight, of a buffer.

Claim 23. (Original) A process according to Claim 15 wherein said detergent premix further comprises a buffering system, said system comprising:

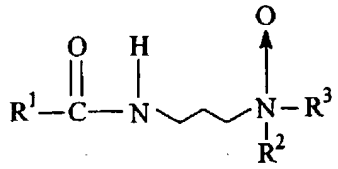
i) 0.5% by weight, of the final composition, of an amine selected from the group consisting of tri(hydroxymethyl) amino methane, 2-amino-2-ethyl-1,3 propanediol, 2-amino-2-methylpropanol, 2-amino-2-methyl-1,3-propanol, disodium glutamate, N-methyl diethanolamide, 1,3-diaminopropanol, N,N'-tetramethyl-1,3-diamino-2-propanol, N,N-bis(2-hydroxyethyl)glycine, N-tris(hydroxymethyl)methyl glycine, and mixtures thereof;

ii) 0.75% by weight, of the final composition, of potassium carbonate; and

iii) 1.75% by weight, of the final composition, of sodium carbonate.

Claim 24. (Original) A process according to Claim 15 wherein said detergent premix further comprises from about 0.5% to about 20% by weight, of a suds booster.

Claim 25. (Original) A process according to Claim 15 wherein said N-oxide surfactant has the formula:



wherein R^1 is C_8-C_{18} alkyl, 2-hydroxyalkyl, 3-hydroxyalkyl, 2-alkoxyl-2-hydroxypropyl, and mixtures thereof; R^2 and R^3 are each methyl, ethyl , propyl, isopropyl, 2-hydroxyethyl, 2-hydroxypropyl, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 26. (Original) A composition according to Claim 14 further comprising one or more enzyme selected from the group consisting of cellulases, hemicellulases, peroxidases, proteases, gluco-amylases, lipases, cutinases, pectinases, xylanases, reductases, oxidases, phenoloxidases, lipoxygenases, ligninases, pullulanases, tannases, pentosanases, malanases, β-glucanases, arabinosidases, and mixtures thereof.